

HARTFORD – Congressman John Larson (CT-01) released the following statement today marking the 45th anniversary of the implementation of Medicare on July 1, 1966:

“Forty-five years ago the very first Medicare check in the nation was delivered here in Hartford to Hartford Hospital, beginning the implementation of one of the fundamental safety nets protecting middle-class American families. Many today don’t remember how hard it was for seniors to get even basic healthcare before Medicare. Nearly half of the seniors in the nation were forced to go without coverage because insurance companies were reluctant to insure them. Today, thanks to Medicare, nearly every senior in the country has access to affordable and quality healthcare. In fact, Medicare, has created the healthiest generation of senior citizens in American history

“Now, Republicans in Congress want us to believe that the only way to address our deficit is to end Medicare – leaving our nation’s seniors right back where they were forty-five years ago – while protecting tax breaks for the oil industry and other special interests.

“Democrats won’t stand for that! As we mark Medicare’s 45th Anniversary, we are fighting to ensure that that bedrock promise between our government and every American is preserved and strengthened so that it can continue to help seniors today and in the future.”

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